



LORI L. SPIELMAN
First Selectman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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JAMES M. PRICHARD
Deputy First Selectman

MELINDA M. FERRY
AARON J. FOSTER
DAVID E. STAVENS
RONALD F. STOMBERG
JOHN W. TURNER

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, January 30, 2017
Town Hall Meeting Hall

MINUTES

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Lori Spielman, Melinda Ferry, Aaron Foster, James Prichard, David Stavens, Ronald Stomberg and John Turner

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicolas J. DiCorleto, Jr., Finance Officer/Treasurer; Gary T. Feldman, Sr., Chief, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD); Bryan Harvell, Crystal Lake Fire Department; Timothy Webb, Director of Public Works/WPCA Administrator; John Rachek, Board of Finance Chair; Tom Adams

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting was called to order by First Selectman Spielman at 7:00 P.M.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM

No citizens came forward.

III. AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM AGREEMENT

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENTER INTO THE AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM AGREEMENT FOR FINGERPRINT CARD SUBMISSIONS WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE RESIDENT STATE TROOPER'S OFFICE SUPERVISOR; AND FURTHER RESOLVED, TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT.

IV. 2017-2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DELIBERATIONS

The list of items that were recommended to add and remove from the Capital Improvements Budget was reviewed.

Ms. Spielman noted that the BOS recommended *Road Overlay and Chip Sealing of Streets-Reallocate* to the Capital Improvements Budget.

Mr. Turner asked if we know if the LOCIP fund is going to reimburse for chip sealing. Mr. DiCorleto responded that the project was approved but they could not do the bonding for this year. They kept it in the budget because the Governor should be coming out with a budget in the next week, so it can be adjusted later.

The Town Hall Renovation/Addition is going to be a bonded project.

Mr. Turner questioned whether the quote for the *HML- Carpet Replacement* was based on a local vendor or a State bid. Mr. Webb responded that it is based off a State bid, the same firm that did the roof project. It is the CRCOG General Contractor. The *HML- Carpet Replacement* was recommended to the Capital Improvements Budget.

Ms. Spielman said that the BOS recommended *Townwide Sidewalks* (for \$25,000 instead of the requested \$50,000), *Sidewalk Extension- West Road (RTE 83)*, and *Parking Lot Renovations* (for \$50,000 instead of the requested \$70,000).

Mr. Turner stated that the *Plan of Conservation and Development 2018*, *EVFD- Generator Station 243- Replmt* was recommended by the BOS to the Capital Improvements Budget. The *EHS Artificial Turf Football Field/Lighting* was recommended for bonding. The *BOE-Windermere Air Conditioning Cafeteria* was recommended.

Mr. Turner stated that the recommended projects for equipment purchases that were approved include *DPW- Snow Plow Dump trucks Replacement*, *Pool Car/Town Staff Vehicle*, *CLFD- Multipurpose Pumper Truck- (Forestry/Service Vehicle)* (recommended at a 5 year lease), *CLFD-Replmt Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)-Revised* (recommended at a 5 year lease), *EVFD- Replmt Forestry Unit (F-143)* (recommended at a 5 year lease), and *EVFD-Breathing Apparatus and Air System Replacement* (recommended at a 5 year lease).

Mr. Turner noted that the total of the budget comes to \$2,735,272, less grants and reimbursements in the amount of \$184,561, for a net cost to the Town of \$2,550,711. As the projects mentioned under a 5 year lease must then be counted on their own under the operational budget, the net requested total is \$1,155,711.

Ms. Spielman again recapped each category to highlight whether there were any questions.

Mr. Turner asked the BOS to consider adding \$10,000 to the \$20,000 that was approved last year for an *Emergency Service Study*. Fourteen years ago when the original study was done, the Town spent just under \$20,000. He noted that it would be valuable in order to answer questions about apparatus replacement, station location, and give direction of where emergency services should go in the years to come. Considering there is about a million dollars going to equipment requests, Mr. Turner believes this would be a good time to enact the study.

Mr. DiCorleto recommended that they do not do the study for that amount, but to first do the RFP, and then come back for additional appropriation. Mr. Turner stated that he believes that the numbers and industry trends show that it is absolutely necessary to get the 3rd party verification and guidance.

Mr. Stavens asked about the money that had been approved in 2016-17 for the *Emergency Service Study*. He was told that the study was not done, and that the money is still there.

Ms. Spielman said that she is worried about the cost of the study. Mr. DiCorleto stated that he would prefer if they did the RFP, came back, and asked for additional appropriation.

Ms. Spielman asked John Rachek, Board of Finance Chair, what he thought of the study. He agreed that the study is necessary and that it should be done the way Mr. DiCorleto is recommending. Mr. DiCorleto noted that if they need more money, the Board of Finance can appropriate up to \$40,000 without a Town Meeting.

Mr. Stomberg raised concern regarding the cost of the artificial turf field. He said that the cost seems to grow every time the project comes up. Originally, it was under \$1,000,000, but now almost costs \$3,000,000. He stated that it will take a tremendous amount of maintenance to upkeep, and the people he has spoken to are not very enthusiastic about the project. He is not enthusiastic about it either. Mr. Prichard noted that they spent \$40,000 to do a study, which he voted against. Mr. DiCorleto said that the issue was that they were trying to find the true cost of the field. They did not want any surprise, or for there to be more money requested later; \$2,805,000 is the true cost of the field. Ms. Ferry asked what this amount covered. Mr. Webb said that it included one field, fencing, equipment to maintain the field, and lights on the field and tennis courts.

In regards to the *EVFD-Replmt Forestry Unit (F-143)*, Mr. Prichard brought up that he does not understand why the cost of the Forestry truck is \$450,000 for EVFD, but only \$230,000 for CLFD. Chief Feldman responded that this requested budget reflected the average price of these vehicles. They can cost more or less, but the goal of purchasing one of these is to benefit the Town with an ISO credit, and lower insurance ratings and getting an F-550 will not lower any insurance ratings. He said that he does not have the exact amount that it would lower the insurance premiums, but estimated that it would be around \$5 per person. He acknowledged that this is industry standard. Mr. Prichard responded that he thought it would be a better idea for the EVFD to get something that they need, rather than this. Chief Feldman said that he can just run the current truck into the ground, but right now there is no use for it besides putting out brush fires.

Mr. Turner again brought up the need for the *Emergency Services Study* so that a third party can come in and make recommendations. He said that this is needed before the BOS makes any recommendations.

Mr. Prichard said that the problem is that there are two forestry trucks that have a huge difference in cost. Chief Feldman said that he is replacing a forestry truck with a truck that will have a value to the Town. Mr. Prichard responded that they had just bought UTVs in order to put out brush fires. Chief Feldman stated that they currently cannot get their trucks down longer driveways. An F-550 will not carry 1000 feet of hose, which is the minimum required. He is in favor of doing a study, but the study from 2003 was never completed. He would like to see them set a time period for everything to be completed. He acknowledged that he has to think about what is best for the safety of everyone who comes through the Town of Ellington, and that is what he is trying to do by replacing the forestry truck with this vehicle.

Mr. Foster asked Chief Feldman if the full \$450,000 was approved, would there be a possibility for the cost to be less. He asked what the low range cost would be. Chief Feldman responded that it would be between \$250,000 and \$300,000.

Mr. Stomberg asked Chief Feldman to actually define what the truck would do. He doesn't believe that a truck that costs \$450,000 will go up into the woods. Chief Feldman said that the truck has the ability to go up Soapstone, and go up long roads to remote areas with the UTVs. It could be called a "mini pumper" that will get ISO credit, but an F-550 will not get ISO credit.

Tom Adams (5 Settlers Way) said that this truck is meant to be in support of UTVs. It can support forest fires as well as house fires.

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Mr. Foster asked how often the current forestry truck is used. Chief Feldman responded that it goes out about 12 times a year, but the new one would perform the function better as it would be able to carry more water.

Mr. Turner said that in order to keep the fire services going it is absolutely necessary to replace the air packs. There is no way around spending that money. He would recommend leaving that in and then reviewing everything else after a study is completed.

Ms. Spielman asked the BOS if they decided to take out the \$450,000 recommendation for the EVFD- Replmt Pumper (ET-143). The BOS agreed to take this out for now.

Mr. Prichard asked when is the soonest that they can go out for the RFPs for the study. Mr. Turner suggested pulling the study from 2003, reviewing the language, and seeing what other towns have done recently and to see if we can get a copy of their RFPs.

Ms. Spielman confirmed with the BOS that they are definitely leaving in the requests for breathing apparatuses from both fire departments.

Mr. Foster asked how long it would take to implement the plan for radio system upgrades for EVFD. Chief Feldman responded that they will do a study and come back with more accurate numbers next year. Mr. Turner acknowledged that it might be possible for that to be done in less than a year, and if it is financially favorable they may come back sooner.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED [AYE: PRICHARD, STAVENS, STOMBERG, FERRY, FOSTER; NAY: TURNER] TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET FOR 2017-2018: ROAD OVERLAY (\$500,000); CHIP SEALING OF STREETS-REALLOCATE (\$106,719); UNIMPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT (\$20,000); HML-CARPET REPLACEMENT (\$95,750); TOWNWIDE SIDEWALKS (\$25,000); SIDEWALK EXTENSION-WEST ROAD (RTE 83) (\$97,303); PARKING LOT RENOVATIONS (\$50,000); PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT 2018 (\$80,000); EVFD-GENERATOR STATION 243- REPLMNT (\$55,000); BOE-WINDERMERE AIR CONDITIONING CAFETERIA (\$85,500); DPW- SNOW PLOW DUMP TRUCKS REPLACEMENT (\$190,000); POOL CAR/TOWN STAFF VEHICLE (\$35,000); CLFD-MULTIPURPOSE PUMPER TRUCK (\$230,000); CLFD- REPLACEMENT BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)- REVISED (\$215,000); EVFD- BREATHING APPARATUS AND AIR SYSTEM REPLACEMENT (\$500,000).

AND FURTHER TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET FOR 2016-17, A GROSS AMOUNT OF \$2,285,272, LESS GRANTS & REIMBURSEMENTS OF \$184,561, FOR A TOTAL NET AMOUNT OF \$2,100,711, LESS LEASES OF \$945,000, FOR A TOTAL NET COST TO THE TOWN OF \$1,155,711. (ATTACHED).

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STOMBERG), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 7:48 P.M.

Submitted by Meaghan Maguire Approved by Lori Spielman
Meaghan Maguire Lori Spielman

